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EXCISE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AIRGRAM

A-353

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TO : Department of State

INFO : USCINCSO FOR POLAD, Amembassies TEGUGIGALPA, SAN SALVADOR, MANAGUA, SAN JOSE, DOD

FROM : Amembassy GUATEMALA

SUBJECT : Weekly Internal Security Report: March 15-21, 1968

REF :

DATE: Mar 23, 1968

RECEIVED
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BUREAU OF
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MAR 26 1968

1. The week was dominated by the kidnapping on March 16th of the Catholic Archbishop of Guatemala Mario CASARIEGO and the chauffeur of the Papal Nuncio who was driving for the Archbishop. Both men re-appeared safe in Quezaltenango on March 20th. The police have arrested 3 persons accused of participating in the crime.

As a direct result of the kidnapping, on March 18th the President issued, and the Congress unanimously ratified in emergency session, Decree 630 which established a State of Siege for 30 days.

2. Other incidents were few and were completely overshadowed by the kidnapping case. See enclosure for details.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY Ery DATE 9 OCT 1981
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

Enclosure: List of Incidents

FORM 4-62 DS-323

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Guatemala A-353
Enclosure

LIST OF INCIDENTS

- March 16 - Catholic Archbishop of Guatemala Mario CASARIEGO and Papal Nuncio's chauffeur, who was driving Archbishop, kidnapped by armed men in Zone 9. Both re-appeared safe in Quezaltenango March 20. Kidnappers had sent note on March 18 to President saying if he did not resign, Archbishop would be killed. Authorities have captured 3 men identified as members of gang and say their confessions name MANO chieftain Raul LORENZANA gang's leader, claiming he was in close, direct contact with Roberto ALEJOS Arzu. (See Embassy's Biweekly Political Review of March 23 for details.)
- 17 - Student, Hugo VILLANUEVA Rosales, machinegunned from passing car in Zone 3. He was seriously wounded by 11 bullets. Child nearby wounded also.
- 18 - Executive Decree 630 establishing State of Siege for 30 days ratified unanimously by Congress in emergency session.
- 18 - German Pinto shot, killed by 3 unknown assassins in San Jorge, Dept. Guatemala.
- 19 - Bomb exploded in radio shop in Zone 1. First reports indicated bomb had been planted in the shop by terrorists but police later arrested proprietor, Edwin SAINO Vasquez and 2 others, Marco Antonio POLANCO and Luis PREM Vassaux, accusing them of using shop to fabricate terrorist bombs. According police version, March 19 explosion was accident.
- 21 - Cols. Francisco ARDON Fernandez and Francisco MAGAÑA have sought refuge in El Salvador. According to press they fled Guatemala because they had been threatened by the FAR.

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